



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/940,711	08/27/2001	Satoshi Mizutani	2309/03753	5768
7590	10/31/2003			EXAMINER
DARBY & DARBY P.C. 805 Third Avenue New York, NY 10022				TORRES VELAZQUEZ, NORCA LIZ
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1771	

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/940,711	MIZUTANI ET AL.
	Examiner Norca L. Torres-Velazquez	Art Unit 1771

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Norca L. Torres-Velazquez. (3) _____.

(2) Alphonso Collins. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 29 October 2003.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference
c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1 and 12.

Identification of prior art discussed: FAHRENKRUG (US 4,891,258) and MURAKAMI et al.(US 5,268,213).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Attorney indicated that the "strips" of their invention are a plurality of layers on top of each other. The Examiner re-stated her position regarding the Murakami et al. reference reading on the claim as presently written in which the strip configuration of Murakami et al. provides for the fibrous layer formed by a plurality of strip extending in parallel and completely separate from each other at predetermined spacing intervals. (as stated on Final Office Action). The Attorney suggested that in order to overcome the art of Murakami et al. will have to amend the claims to recite the layers versus the strips. The Examiner indicated that using the "layers" language will better define Applicants invention but will also require new consideration and a new search. With regards to claim 12, the Examiner indicated that the combination of Fahrenkrug in view of Murakami et al. provides for the thin strips from a non-woven fabric since the fibrous layer of Fahrenkrug is made of a nonwoven and the Murakami et al. reference provides for the strip structure .